

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO OBJECT

Fourmile Vegetation Management Project

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

Eagle River-Florence Ranger District

Forest, Oneida, and Vilas Counties, Wisconsin

Located in T40N, R11E and R12E; T39N, R11E and R12E; and T38N, R11E and R12E.

District Ranger Chad Kirshbaum, the deciding official, is pleased to announce the release of the Draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (DDN/FONSI) for the Fourmile Vegetation Management Project on the Eagle River-Florence Ranger district of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. This proposed project is to manage vegetation and access on National Forest Lands, transitioning these acres toward desired future conditions outlined in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. The proposed action includes around 12,000 acres of timber harvest; reforestation; fuels reduction; road construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and decommissioning; and trail and wildlife opening maintenance.

Most of the comments received during the scoping package in 2017 and the 30-day Environmental assessment (EA) review and comment period in summer 2019 focused on issues spanning: use of herbicide, local road impacts, visual impacts to local areas of interest, wildlife impacts, and appropriateness of an EA. Comments and input from the public and other stakeholders were taken into consideration in the Fourmile project proposal.

This decision is subject to an objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218, subparts A and B. Objections will only be accepted from those who submitted timely and specific written comments about this project during the designated public comment periods (i.e., the scoping period and 30-day comment period) in accordance with 36 CFR 218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project, unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities.

A written objection must be submitted within 45 days after publication of this notice in the *Northwoods River News*, Rhinelander, WI. However, if the 45-day filing period would end on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday then the filing time would extend to the end of the next Federal working day. The date of the publication of this notice is the only means for calculating the date by which objections must be received; do not rely upon any other source for this information. It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to §218.9. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

The notice of objection must be sent to: Paul Strong, Forest Supervisor, Objections Reviewing Officer, USDA Forest Service, 500 Hanson Lake Road, Rhinelander, WI 54501. The notice of objection may be faxed to: 715-369-8859, Attn: Paul Strong-Reviewing Officer, USDA Forest Service. Objections may also be submitted by email to: objections-eastern-region@fs.fed.us. Subject: Notice of Objection, Fourmile Vegetation Project. Acceptable formats for electronic comments are text (.txt), MS Word 6.0 or higher (.doc), portable document format (.pdf), or rich text format (.rtf). Hand delivered objections may be submitted at the above address between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on federal holidays.

It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Only those who submit timely comments will have eligibility to object to the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 218. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 218. In other words, comments

should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider. Other eligibility requirements are defined by 36 CFR 218.25(a)(3) and include name, postal address, title of the project, and signature or other verification of identity upon request and the identity of the individual or entity who authored the comments.

The objection must contain the minimum content requirements specified in §218.8(d) and incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b). It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to §218.9. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

At a minimum an objection must include the following (36 CFR 218.8(d)): 1) The objector's name and address, with a telephone number, if available; 2) a signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for Email may be filed with the objection); 3) when multiple names are listed on an objection, identification of the lead objector (verification of the identity of the lead objector shall be provided upon request); 4) the name of the proposed project, the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the name of the National Forest and Ranger Districts on which the proposed project will be implemented; and 5) a description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and 6) a statement that demonstrates connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection.

If no objection is received, a final decision may occur on, but not before, five business days from the close of the objection filing period. If an objection is received, a final decision will not occur before all instructions identified by the Reviewing Officer have been addressed.

The Environmental Assessment (EA), DDN, FONSI, and additional supplemental project information can be obtained by visiting our website:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=51959> or by contacting Karolyn Stillman at 5638 Forestry Dr. Florence, WI 54121; (715) 528-4464 x2806, or karolyn.stillman2@usda.gov. Paper copies of the documents are available upon request.